United Nations S/2003/93

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 24 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 January 2003 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning interviews with Iraqi scientists (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-22403 (E) 280103 280103

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

With reference to paragraph 7 of the statement issued on 20 January 2003 at the conclusion of the meetings of the delegations of Iraq, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Baghdad, which provides that "persons asked for interviews in private will be encouraged to accept this", I should like to inform you that the National Monitoring Directorate (NMD) encourages Iraqi scientists with whom UNMOVIC and IAEA request private interviews and that the Iraqi scientists who have been contacted by NMD to this end and encouraged to give interviews have agreed to do so but have requested that a witness be present at the interview.

I should also like to inform you that the Iraqi side will continue its active cooperation with UNMOVIC and IAEA, in order to facilitate the implementation of the tasks assigned to the two bodies, including the points agreed on in the statement of 20 January 2003. On this occasion, we caution against the attempts by the United States to exploit the subject of interviews, which is of a legal nature, for political and propaganda purposes in order to accuse Iraq of non-cooperation.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs